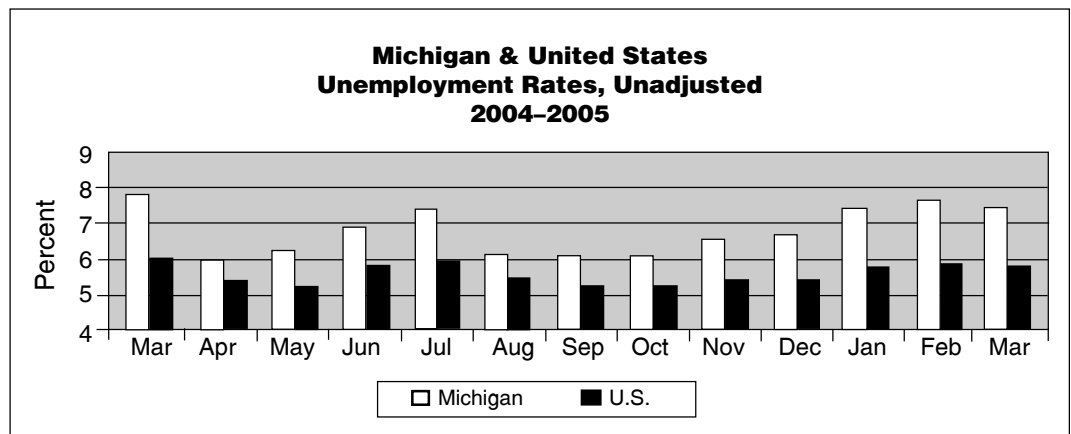


# Michigan's March Jobless Rate Drops to 7.6 Percent

Michigan's unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) moved down by 0.4 percentage points during the month of March, bringing the state's jobless rate to 7.6 percent. The jobless rate decrease represents 20,000 fewer individuals out of work, as unemployment moved down to 385,000. The state's civilian labor force increased by 4,000 during the month to 5,070,000, while employment advanced by 24,000 to 4,686,000. Traditionally, Michigan's labor force tends to increase during March, as workers begin to return to the job market with the approach of spring, causing a temporary increase in the state's unemployment rate.

This trend changed in March of 2005. As the labor force remained almost flat, employment moved up, absorbing workers from the ranks of the unemployed and causing March's jobless rate to decline. The nation's jobless rate (unadjusted) fell by 0.4 percentage points during the month, down to 5.4 percent.

Compared to a year ago, March's labor force increased by 15,000, employment jumped by 30,000, and unemployment declined by 13,000. This has resulted in an over-the-year decrease of 0.3 percentage points in the state's jobless rate.



## Slight Seasonal Gains in Nonfarm Employment

Michigan's nonfarm employment increased slightly during the month of March, as industry jobs moved up to 4,322,000. Employment opportunities edged up by 2,000 jobs, with gains recorded in the service-providing sector of the economy. Service-providing employment moved up by 5,000 positions during the month, mostly due to seasonal advances in leisure and hospitality services (most notably in accommodation services, and food and drinking places). Small gains were also reported in the financial activities and professional and business sectors. Goods-producing employment dipped by 3,000 jobs in March, due to losses in the manufacturing sector. The employment reductions were primarily concentrated in the transportation equipment and related industries. These reductions were temporary and were caused by short term inventory adjustments. Nondurable goods jobs remained basically flat, showing a small increase of 1,000 jobs, mainly in the food manufacturing sector.

In March, average weekly hours in Michigan's manufacturing industries decreased to 40.5 hours from 41.3 hours in the previous month, while average hourly earnings moved down by 47 cents to \$21.28. As a result, average weekly earnings in manufacturing contracted to \$861.84, a loss of \$36.44 from the previous month's total.

	Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Hours	
	2005		2005	
	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.
Manufacturing	\$21.28	\$21.75	40.5	41.3
Durables	22.77	23.27	41.0	42.1
Transport Equipment	28.66	28.91	40.5	43.1
Nondurables	15.11	15.10	38.5	38.2

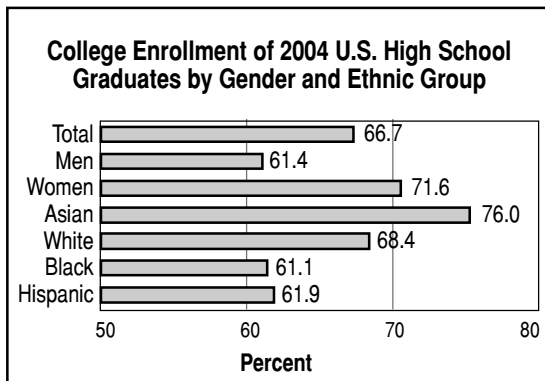
## College Enrollment of High School Graduates, U.S. 2004

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor reports that in October of 2004, two out of every three high school graduates in the U.S. (66.7 percent) were enrolled in colleges or universities. The college enrollment rate was almost three percentage points higher than a year earlier and approached the historical high for the series (67.0 percent in 1997).

Among the 2.8 million members of the 2004 high school graduating class, 1.8 million were enrolled in colleges the following October. The college enrollment rate of young women was 71.6 percent, compared with 61.4 percent for young men. The percentage of women attending college following high school graduation has exceeded that of men in almost every year since 1988. Among ethnic groups, a greater percentage of Asian graduates (76.0 percent) were enrolled in college than white (68.4 percent), Hispanic (61.9 percent), or black (61.1 percent) graduates.

The vast majority of recent high school graduates who enrolled in college in the fall of 2004, (93.2 percent) were full-time students. Of these full-time students, 42.1 percent were employed or looking for work in October of 2004. In contrast, 82.4 percent of part-time college students participated in the labor force. Two thirds of the 2004 high school graduates enrolled in college attended 4-year institutions. The labor force participation rate of these students was 36.5 percent and their unemployment rate was 11.8 percent. In contrast, 61.1 percent of the recent high school graduates enrolled in 2-year institutions were in the labor force and their unemployment rate was 15.0 percent.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2005.



## Michigan

(Data In Thousands)

Mar 2005    Feb 2005    Mar 2004

### Place of Residence

Labor Force	5,070	5,066	5,055
Employment	4,686	4,662	4,656
Unemployment	385	405	398
Rate (Percent)	7.6	8.0	7.9

### Industry Jobs (Place of Work)

Total Nonfarm	4,322	4,320	4,335
Goods-Producing	855	858	876
Nat Resources & Mining	8	7	8
Construction	168	166	167
Manufacturing	679	685	701
Durable Goods	533	540	554
Fabricated Metals	83	82	83
Machinery Manufact.	76	76	76
Transportation Equip.	246	253	265
Nondurable Goods	146	145	147
Service-Providing	3,467	3,462	3,460
Trade, Transport & Util.	796	797	792
Wholesale Trade	171	170	169
Retail Trade	501	503	501
Motor Vehicle Dealers	63	63	61
Food & Beverage Stores	87	86	86
General Merchandise	108	108	114
Transp, Warehousing & Util	124	124	122
Information	66	66	69
Financial Activities	217	216	215
Finance & Insurance	162	161	161
Real Estate & Rental	55	55	55
Prof & Business Services	560	559	565
Prof, Scientific & Technical	246	246	247
Management Scientific Services	19	20	19
Administrative Support	235	234	239
Education & Health Services	556	557	556
Education Services	70	69	75
Health Care & Social Asst	486	487	481
Leisure & Hospitality	384	381	381
Arts, Entertainment & Rec	52	51	52
Accommodation & Food	332	330	329
Other Services	177	177	178
Government	711	710	704
Federal	55	55	55
State	175	175	175
Local	481	480	474

## Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Ann Arbor			Battle Creek			Bay City		
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004
<b>Place of Residence</b>									
Labor Force	191,900	190,300	186,400	78,400	77,900	76,900	57,200	57,200	56,700
Employment	183,000	181,300	177,400	73,300	72,400	71,100	52,600	52,300	51,700
Unemployment	8,800	9,000	9,000	5,100	5,500	5,800	4,600	4,900	5,100
Rate (Percent)	4.6	4.7	4.8	6.6	7.1	7.5	8.0	8.6	8.9

### Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	204,100	202,800	202,300	63,200	62,800	62,800	38,900	39,000	39,500
Nat Resources & Construction	5,200	5,200	5,100	2,100	2,100	1,900	1,400	1,400	1,300
Manufacturing	22,700	22,500	23,500	14,400	14,500	14,000	4,400	4,400	4,800
Trade, Transport & Utilities	27,300	27,100	26,800	10,200	10,200	10,300	8,800	8,900	8,900
Wholesale Trade	5,500	5,400	5,300	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,300
Retail Trade	18,700	18,600	18,400	7,700	7,700	7,800	6,200	6,300	6,300
Information	3,700	3,700	3,900	*	*	*	600	600	600
Financial Activities	5,600	5,600	5,800	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,400	1,400	1,400
Professional & Business Services	26,900	26,900	26,400	6,500	6,500	6,300	3,600	3,600	3,600
Educational & Health Services	23,000	22,900	22,500	9,100	9,200	9,500	5,400	5,400	5,500
Leisure & Hospitality	14,200	13,900	13,600	5,700	5,500	5,200	4,600	4,600	4,500
Other Services	6,100	6,100	6,400	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,600
Government	69,400	68,900	68,300	10,700	10,700	10,700	6,200	6,200	6,300

### Detroit-Warren-Livonia (Data in Thousands)

### Flint

### Grand Rapids-Wyoming

	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004

### Place of Residence

Labor Force	2,164	2,174	2,195	217,900	216,200	216,000	400,200	399,500	392,800
Employment	1,992	1,997	2,035	198,900	196,900	195,600	373,700	370,400	360,700
Unemployment	172	177	160	19,000	19,200	20,400	26,400	29,100	32,100
Rate (Percent)	7.9	8.2	7.3	8.7	8.9	9.4	6.6	7.3	8.2

### Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	2,011	2,012	2,033	158,500	157,200	159,800	384,000	382,700	379,700
Nat Resources & Construction	80	78	76	5,700	5,700	5,700	16,900	17,100	17,200
Manufacturing	286	294	302	21,800	21,400	23,800	74,400	74,400	74,000
Trade, Transport & Utilities	376	378	377	31,400	31,400	31,000	74,000	73,700	71,600
Wholesale Trade	94	93	93	6,600	6,500	6,400	21,200	20,800	19,600
Retail Trade	217	219	220	21,300	21,400	21,100	43,000	42,700	42,300
Information	36	36	36	2,100	2,100	2,000	5,500	5,600	5,600
Financial Activities	117	116	116	6,700	6,600	6,500	21,100	20,700	20,900
Professional & Business Services	344	344	349	19,200	18,800	18,800	50,700	50,400	50,700
Educational & Health Services	257	257	256	24,300	24,500	24,300	53,400	53,100	52,200
Leisure & Hospitality	175	172	176	14,800	14,700	14,700	31,600	31,300	30,300
Other Services	97	96	101	6,800	6,800	7,100	16,700	16,600	17,400
Government	244	243	244	25,700	25,200	25,900	39,700	39,800	39,800

\* Data Not Available

## Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

	Holland-Grand Haven			Jackson			Kalamazoo-Portage		
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004
<b>Place of Residence</b>									
Labor Force	134,300	133,400	131,600	82,700	82,600	81,900	177,900	177,000	174,900
Employment	126,600	125,000	122,900	77,000	76,400	74,900	167,100	165,400	162,900
Unemployment	7,800	8,400	8,700	5,700	6,200	7,000	10,800	11,600	12,000
Rate (Percent)	5.8	6.3	6.6	6.9	7.5	8.5	6.1	6.5	6.9

### Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	113,400	112,600	113,000	61,400	61,400	61,100	144,600	143,900	144,300
Nat Resources & Construction	5,800	5,800	5,800	2,300	2,300	2,200	5,800	5,800	6,000
Manufacturing	36,100	35,900	37,600	10,200	10,200	10,200	24,500	24,400	24,500
Trade, Transport & Utilities	16,800	16,800	16,900	12,400	12,400	12,400	25,400	25,300	25,000
Wholesale Trade	3,900	3,900	3,800	1,700	1,700	1,600	4,200	4,200	4,200
Retail Trade	10,200	10,200	10,600	7,600	7,600	7,800	17,400	17,300	17,000
Information	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	500	500	1,400	1,400	1,500
Financial Activities	3,300	3,300	3,100	2,300	2,300	2,300	7,900	7,800	7,500
Professional & Business Services	11,800	11,500	9,600	4,700	4,700	4,500	14,000	13,800	13,200
Educational & Health Services	9,700	9,700	10,400	9,400	9,300	9,500	19,900	19,800	19,900
Leisure & Hospitality	7,300	7,300	7,100	5,400	5,400	5,300	14,100	14,000	14,900
Other Services	4,400	4,400	4,900	2,700	2,700	3,000	6,600	6,500	6,900
Government	17,200	16,900	16,600	11,500	11,600	11,200	25,000	25,100	24,900

	Lansing-East Lansing			Monroe			Muskegon-Norton Shores		
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar	Mar	Feb	Mar
	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004	2005	2005	2004
<b>Place of Residence</b>									
Labor Force	253,500	251,600	248,500	79,500	79,000	79,200	91,100	91,000	89,600
Employment	238,100	235,500	232,300	74,500	73,700	73,600	84,400	83,800	81,300
Unemployment	15,300	16,200	16,200	5,000	5,300	5,600	6,800	7,300	8,300
Rate (Percent)	6.0	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.7	7.0	7.4	8.0	9.3

### Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	230,300	228,600	230,300	43,000	42,800	43,900	65,500	65,500	64,600
Nat Resources & Construction	8,200	7,900	8,000	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,200	2,200	2,000
Manufacturing	22,900	22,100	23,400	8,700	8,800	9,100	13,600	13,600	13,400
Trade, Transport & Utilities	35,600	35,600	36,600	9,700	9,500	9,700	13,800	13,400	13,200
Wholesale Trade	5,600	5,600	5,500	1,100	1,000	1,000	1,400	1,400	1,400
Retail Trade	23,500	23,700	24,700	5,700	5,700	5,700	11,100	10,700	10,500
Information	3,000	3,000	3,200	*	*	*	900	900	1,000
Financial Activities	15,400	15,300	15,500	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,900	1,800	1,900
Professional & Business Services	21,300	20,700	20,900	3,200	3,200	3,200	4,000	4,000	3,700
Educational & Health Services	25,800	25,700	26,100	4,500	4,500	4,400	10,300	10,200	10,300
Leisure & Hospitality	19,400	19,300	18,800	4,100	4,100	4,900	7,000	7,100	6,600
Other Services	10,700	10,700	11,000	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,500	2,500	2,600
Government	68,000	68,300	66,800	6,600	6,600	6,600	9,900	9,800	10,200

\* Data Not Available

## Civilian Labor Force and Wage & Salary Estimates

### Niles-Benton Harbor

### Saginaw-Saginaw Township North

	Mar 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2004	Mar 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2004
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#### Place of Residence

Labor Force	79,400	79,300	79,300	102,100	101,500	101,100
Employment	73,400	72,700	72,300	93,200	92,200	91,000
Unemployment	5,900	6,600	7,000	8,900	9,400	10,100
Rate (Percent)	7.5	8.3	8.8	8.7	9.2	10.0

#### Place of Work

Total Nonfarm Jobs	63,000	62,800	63,800	92,200	91,900	92,600
Nat Resources & Construction	2,100	2,100	2,100	3,600	3,700	3,700
Manufacturing	14,600	14,500	15,400	14,000	13,800	14,700
Trade, Transport & Utilities	12,300	12,200	11,800	17,500	17,500	17,300
Wholesale Trade	2,600	2,500	2,400	2,700	2,700	2,700
Retail Trade	7,500	7,500	7,200	12,200	12,200	12,000
Information	800	800	900	2,000	2,000	2,100
Financial Activities	2,300	2,300	2,200	5,000	5,000	5,200
Professional & Business Serv	4,600	4,600	4,800	8,600	8,500	8,200
Educational & Health Serv	9,700	9,800	9,700	14,900	14,800	14,600
Leisure & Hospitality	5,600	5,500	5,600	9,000	9,000	8,900
Other Services	2,700	2,700	2,900	4,300	4,300	4,600
Government	8,300	8,300	8,400	13,300	13,300	13,300

### Upper Peninsula

### Northeast Lower Michigan

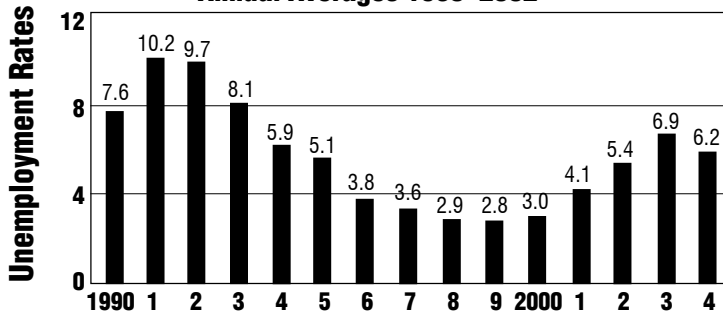
### Northwest Lower Michigan

	Mar 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2004	Mar 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2004	Mar 2005	Feb 2005	Mar 2004
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#### Place of Residence

Labor Force	163,800	163,600	160,800	98,900	98,300	96,900	155,100	154,500	152,200
Employment	150,000	148,800	145,400	87,800	86,600	84,300	141,600	140,000	137,200
Unemployment	13,800	14,700	15,400	11,100	11,700	12,600	13,500	14,400	15,000
Rate (Percent)	8.5	9.0	9.6	11.2	11.9	13.0	8.7	9.3	9.9

**Kalamazoo MSA, Unemployment Rates  
Annual Averages 1980-2002**



### Regional Focus

#### Monroe MSA, Unemployment Rates Annual Averages 1990-2004

From the recession of 1990 - 1991 until 1999, Monroe MSA annual jobless rates steadily declined. In 1991, Monroe MSA's unemployment rate reached 10.2 percent and dropped to 2.8 percent in 1999. Joblessness then rose from 1999 to 2003, reaching a peak of 6.9 percent. In 2004, Monroe's jobless rate moved down, dropping to 6.2 percent.

## March Jobless Rates Decrease in All of Michigan's Major Regional Labor Market Areas

March seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates moved down in all of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas. The rate declines were moderate, ranging from 0.1 to 0.8 of a percentage point, with a median increase of 0.5 percent. Three regions, the Niles-Benton Harbor and the Grand Rapids-Wyoming Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and the Northeast Lower Michigan Region, displayed the largest unemployment rate reductions over the month. In three other areas, the Ann Arbor, Flint, and Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs, rates were little changed, edging down by 0.3 of a percentage point or less. The remaining major areas reported declines of around 0.5 percentage point. Employment levels expanded in 16 areas over the month, advancing by an average of one percent. The only area to experience employment reductions during March was the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA, dipping by 0.3 of a percentage point.

From March 2004 to March 2005, jobless rates decreased in 16 of the 17 major labor market areas. Rate reductions ranged from 0.2 percent to almost two full percentage points in the various areas. The average drop was a full percentage point. The largest over-the-year decreases were registered in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Grand Rapids-Wyoming and Jackson MSAs, along with the Northeast Lower Michigan Region.

Among Michigan's major labor markets, the Ann Arbor area had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.6 percent, followed by the Holland-Grand Haven MSA with 5.8 percent, and the Lansing-East Lansing MSA with 6.0 percent. The highest jobless rate in the month of March was recorded by the Northeast Lower Michigan region at 11.2 percent, followed by the Flint, Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs, and Northwest Lower Michigan, all with jobless rates of 8.7 percent.

## Most of Michigan's Metropolitan Areas Reveal Small Gains in Nonfarm Employment

Total nonfarm employment increased in 10 of Michigan's 14 MSAs during the month of March. Employment gains were modest and concentrated mainly in the service providing industries. Two areas, Bay City and Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSAs, showed small declines for the month (down by 0.3 and 0.1 percentage points, respectively), while employment in the remaining two areas, the Jackson and Muskegon-Norton Shores MSAs remained unchanged. Among the MSAs showing employment advances for the month, Flint had the largest percentage job growth at 0.8 percent, followed by the Holland-Grand Haven and Lansing-East Lansing MSAs, both with gains of 0.7 percent, and the Ann Arbor and Battle Creek MSAs with 0.6 percent.

Job growth in the service-providing industries occurred mostly due to seasonal factors, with the most noticeable gains reported in leisure and hospitality services (arts, entertainment and recreation, and accommodation and food services). Other sectors in the service-providing industries remained basically flat, with minor upward movement in financial activities (Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA, up by 1,000), and professional and business services (scattered in several areas including the Flint,

Lansing-East Lansing and Grand Rapids-Wyoming MSAs).

The goods-producing sector experienced some employment reductions during March, all in manufacturing, as several automotive plants, mostly in the Detroit MSA, temporarily reduced staff for production adjustments. Employment in the construction industry remained virtually unchanged.

During March, average hourly earnings in manufacturing decreased in four of the five major areas for which data is currently available. The losses were due to reductions in overtime hours worked in the durable goods sector. Average hourly earnings moved down in three areas during the month, with declines reported mainly in the durable goods industries. The total effect of these changes was that average weekly earnings contracted in four of the major areas. The largest losses in weekly earnings were reported in the Flint MSA, down by \$110.19, followed by the Lansing-East Lansing MSA, with a drop of \$32.28. In the other areas (Grand Rapids-Wyoming and Kalamazoo-Portage MSAs), the drops in the average weekly earnings were minor, averaging less than \$4.00. The only area to experience an increase in earnings during March was the Detroit-Warren Livonia MSA, up by \$23.95.

## MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS\* Michigan & Selected Metropolitan Areas March and February 2005

Area	Average Weekly Hours		Average Hourly Earnings		Average Weekly Earnings	
	Mar	Feb	Mar	Feb	Mar	Feb
<b>Michigan</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>21.28</b>	<b>21.75</b>	<b>861.84</b>	<b>898.28</b>
Detroit-Warren-Livonia	43.3	42.7	24.97	24.76	1,081.20	1,057.25
Flint	43.7	46.0	30.11	31.00	1,315.81	1,426.00
Grand Rapids-Wyoming	39.0	38.6	17.37	17.47	677.43	674.34
Kalamazoo-Portage	39.0	39.2	15.43	15.50	601.77	607.60
Lansing-East Lansing	41.1	41.8	24.79	25.16	1,018.87	1,051.69

\* Hours and earnings data for the manufacturing sector is currently available only in the above MSAs.

### The Location Quotient Calculator

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor has added a new economical analysis tool to its Web site: The **Location Quotient Calculator**. The new calculator generates location quotients, that readily compare the industrial activity levels among different areas of the country. In general, location quotients are ratios that compare the concentration of a resource or activity, such as employment in a defined area to that of a larger area base. For example, location quotients can be used to compare state employment by industry to that of the nation (see example); or employment in a city, county, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), or other defined geographic sub-area to the State.

With just a few quick selections from the BLS Web form, the user can specify a base reference area (usually the U.S. as a whole), and a base reference industry (usually the private sector, all industries). The user may choose up to three geographic areas to be compared to the base area and may choose numerous industries to be compared to the base industry. This innovative use of data allows for focused, detailed industry study at the desired geographic level. The Web site location of the quotient calculator is: [www.bls.gov/cew/cewlq.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cew/cewlq.htm)

### Percent of Employment Calculated for Selected Industries, from Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Data

Industry	U.S. Total	Michigan Statewide	Wayne County
Base Industry: All Industries	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Construction	6.2%	5.1%	3.6%
Manufacturing	13.5%	19.5%	16.3%
Trade Transp. % Utilities	23.4%	22.0%	22.9%
Financial Activities	7.3%	5.8%	5.2%
Professional & Business Serv.	14.8%	15.9%	18.2%
Education & Health Serv.	14.7%	14.3%	16.3%
Leisure & Hospitality	11.4%	10.8%	11.5%

## Payroll Employment in Michigan, Annual Report-2004

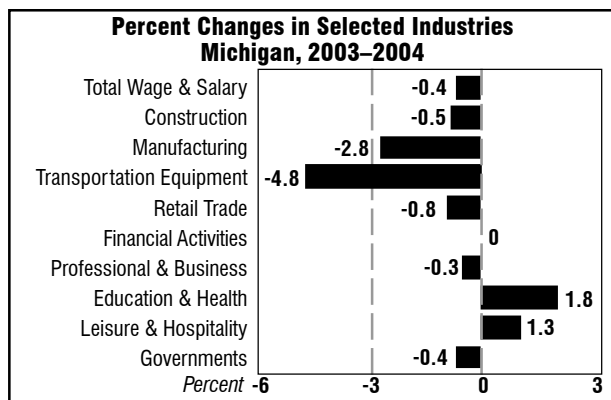
During 2004, Michigan's labor market continued to struggle with job creation. Employment levels in some industries continued a downward trend, reducing wage and salary employment by 19,000 or 0.4 percentage points. The impact of the sluggish job market was felt statewide, reducing employment in many of the state's major labor market areas, particularly in the Niles-Benton Harbor MSA (down by 2,000 or 3.0 percent), the Lansing-East Lansing MSA (down by 3,000 or 1.3 percent), the Detroit-Warren-Livonia MSA (down by 21,000 or 1.0 percent), and the Flint MSA (down by 4,000 or 2.4 percent). This was the fourth consecutive year since 1999 that the state's annual nonfarm employment showed no gains over the previous year.

During 2004, Michigan employers provided close to 4.4 million jobs. Employment reductions were concentrated in the goods-producing sector, with the manufacturing sector showing the strongest adverse impact over the year. Durable goods industries, the sector that supplies the majority of Michigan's manufacturing employment, lost 16,000 jobs during 2004. Employment in transportation equipment, stood at 257,000, a reduction of 13,000 jobs or 4.8 percent. Nondurable goods lost 4,000 positions during 2004, many in paper manufacturing and chemical manufacturing industries. The construction industry, which has exhibited steady and solid growth during the 1990's, remained virtually unchanged at 190,000 jobs.

In comparison, service-providing industries, although showing a mixed picture during the year, turned the

corner and registered small employment gains in 2004. Educational and health services, particularly ambulatory health care and social assistance services, increased employment by 1.8 percent. Leisure and hospitality services, mainly accommodation and food services, also added jobs, moving up by 1.2 percent. These two sectors had employment gains more than enough to make up for the losses experienced in other sectors. Retail trade and professional and business services, two of the larger industries in Michigan, moved down during 2004. Retail trade employment fell by 4,000 jobs, or 0.8 percent. Within retail trade, general merchandise stores contracted by 3,000 jobs or 2.5 percent. Similarly, professional and business services decreased from 586,000 in 2003 to 584,000 in 2004, a drop of 0.3 percent.

Source: Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives, April 2005.



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